

Complete Listing of Claims

1. (Previously Presented) A low depth nestable tray for containers, said tray having a floor structure with a floor top surface, a floor bottom surface, and a plurality of container support areas on the floor top surface, wherein the improvements comprise:

a low depth wall structure comprising a plurality of columns arranged along the periphery of the floor structure, and further comprising a band having side and end portions spaced above the floor structure and connected to the floor structure by said columns to form a unitary construction, wherein said band is contoured downwardly to form a band corner portion that directly connects to the floor structure at each corner of said tray, and wherein an uppermost edge of the corresponding band corner portion is an uppermost surface of the wall structure at the corresponding band corner portion and wherein the upper edge of the band corner portion is below uppermost surfaces of the side and end portions.

2. (Original) The tray of claim 1, wherein each said band corner portion is formed whereby one said side portion of said band is contoured downwardly and one said end portion is contoured downwardly so as to converge together.

3. (Previously Presented) The tray of claim 2, further comprising a rib on an exterior surface of each said band corner portion, and a platform formed at a top edge of each said band corner portion to support the rib of an above-nested tray.

4. (Previously Presented) The tray of claim 1, wherein said band is contoured downwardly at an angle of approximately 50°.

5. (Previously Presented) The tray of claim 1, wherein said band is also contoured downwardly along the side of said tray to form a band side detail that connects to the floor structure at the side of said tray.

6. (Previously Presented) A low depth nestable tray of containers, said tray having a floor structure with a floor top surface, a floor bottom surface, and a plurality of container support areas on the floor top surface, wherein the improvements comprise:

a low depth wall structure comprising a plurality of columns arranged generally perpendicularly to the floor structure along the periphery of the floor structure, and further comprising a band having side and end portions spaced above the floor structure and connected to the floor structure by said columns to form a unitary construction, wherein said band includes parallel portions generally parallel to the floor structure and is contoured downwardly along the side portions between the parallel portions to form a band central portion that directly connects to the floor structure at the side portions of said tray.

7. (Previously Presented) The tray of claim 6, wherein said band central portion has a top edge for contacting and supporting a mating bottom edge of the band central portion of a like tray nested thereabove and wherein the top edge of the band central portion is the uppermost surface of the wall structure at the band central portion.

8. (Previously Presented) The tray of claim 6, wherein said band is contoured downwardly at an angle of approximately 50° to form said band central portion.

9. (Previously Presented) The tray of claim 6, wherein the band also contours downwardly to form a band corner portion attached to the floor structure.

10. (Previously Presented) The tray of claim 9, further comprising a rib formed on an exterior surface of at least one band corner portion, and a platform formed at an upper edge of a corresponding band corner portion for supporting the rib of an adjacent above-nested tray, and wherein an uppermost edge of the corresponding band corner portion is an uppermost surface of the wall structure at the corresponding band corner portion and wherein the upper edge of the band corner portion is below uppermost surfaces of the side and end portions.

11. (Previously Presented) The tray of claim 6, wherein each column has an inner column surface which projects inward, and an outer column surface which is recessed inward to receive therein the inner column surface of an adjacent below-nested tray.

12. (Previously Presented) The tray of claim 6, wherein the band has a substantially planar inner surface.

13. (Previously Presented) A low depth nestable tray for containers, having a floor structure with a floor top surface, a floor bottom surface, and a plurality of container support areas on the floor top surface, wherein the improvements comprise:

a low depth wall structure comprising a plurality of columns arranged along the periphery of the floor structure, and further comprising a band having side and end portions spaced above the floor structure and connected to the floor structure by said columns to form a unitary construction, wherein said band is contoured downwardly along the side portions to form a band side detail that directly connects to the floor surface at the side portions of said tray, and wherein an uppermost edge of the band side detail is an uppermost surface of the wall structure at the band side detail and wherein the upper edge of the band side detail at each band side detail is below an uppermost surface of the side and end portions of the band.

14. (Previously Presented) The tray of claim 13, wherein one of the side portions of the band is contoured downwardly and one of the end portions of the band is contoured downwardly so as to converge together to define a band corner portion.

15. (Previously Presented) The tray of claim 14, wherein the band corner portion is integrally attached to the floor structure at each corner of the tray.

16. (Previously Presented) The tray of claim 13, wherein each column has an inner column surface which projects inward, and an outer column surface which is recessed inward to receive therein the inner column surface of an adjacent below-nested tray.

17. (Previously Presented) The tray of claim 13, further comprising a rib formed on an exterior surface of at least one band corner portion, and a platform formed at an upper edge of a corresponding band corner portion for supporting the rib of an adjacent above-nested tray.

18. (Previously Presented) The tray of claim 13, wherein the band side detail is centrally disposed along the length of the side wall.

19. (Previously Presented) The tray of claim 1, wherein the band has a substantially planar inner surface.

20. (Previously Presented) The tray of claim 1, wherein each column has an inner column surface which projects inward, and an outer column surface which is recessed inward to receive therein the inner column surface of an adjacent below-nested tray.

21. (Previously Presented) The tray of claim 13 wherein said band side detail has a top edge for contacting and supporting a mating bottom edge of the band side detail of a like tray nested thereabove.

22. (Currently Amended) A low depth nestable tray for containers comprising:

a floor structure with a floor top surface, a floor bottom surface, and a plurality of container support areas on the floor top surface;

a low depth wall structure comprising a plurality of columns generally transverse to the floor structure and arranged along the periphery of the floor structure, and further

comprising a band having side and end portions spaced above the floor structure, the band connected to the floor structure by said columns, and wherein the band is contoured downwardly to form a band corner portion that directly connects to the floor structure at each corner of the tray ~~adjacent the parallel portions~~, wherein a top surface of the band at the band corner portion is the uppermost surface of the tray at the band corner portion to contact and support a like tray nested thereabove.

23. (Previously Presented) The tray of claim 22 wherein parallel portions of the band, generally parallel to the floor structure, extend between at least two of the plurality of columns.

24. (Previously Presented) The tray of claim 22 wherein the top surface of the band is contoured downwardly to form the band corner portion.

25. (Previously Presented) The tray of claim 22, further comprising a rib on an exterior surface of each band corner portion, the top surface of each band corner portion positioned to contact and support the rib of the above-nested tray.

26. (Previously Presented) The tray of claim 22 wherein the band includes side parallel portions and end parallel portions generally perpendicular to the side parallel portions, and wherein each band corner portion is between one of the side parallel portions and one of the end parallel portions.

27. (Previously Presented) The tray of claim 26 wherein an uppermost surface of the wall structure at each of the band corner portions is disposed below the plane of the parallel portions.

28. (Previously Presented) The tray of claim 27 wherein an uppermost surface of the band is the uppermost surface of the tray at the parallel portions and at the band corner portions.